

Carolinas Gateway Partnership News

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JADE APPAREL BRINGS JOBS TO EDGECOMBE COUNTY

Jade Apparel announced plans to begin operations in Edgecombe County which will create 250 new jobs and \$2 million investment in equipment and renovations.

The New Jersey-based company will establish their operations in the Glenoit facility at 3001 N. Main Street in Tarboro. The Tarboro facility will focus on the manufacturing of apparel for the military. This apparel includes parkas and trousers, jackets and pants, combat shirts and various field garments. The jobs in their New Jersey facility will not be affected by this expansion.

"We look forward to our new home in Tarboro," stated a Jade Apparel spokesperson. "Glenoit and Jade Apparel have a long history of cooperation and friendship. Before garment sourcing moved to China, Jade was one of the largest users of Glenoit fabrics for Seventh Avenue companies. Today we are focusing on producing high tech garments mainly for the military. Sharing the Glenoit facility in Tarboro allows us to expand our military business, but also reinvent the fashion garment supply chain. Being close to the fabric source allows us to cut out transportation time and cost. Being close to the customers, both military and fashion houses on Seventh Avenue, coupled with Glenoit's value, quality and quick response, will give us opportunities in this changing market."

Tarboro Mayor Donald Morris welcomed the good news saying, "I am very pleased with the company's decision to locate their operation in Tarboro. The creation of new jobs and investment is great news for our community. We welcome Jade Apparel to Tarboro."

County officials are happy to have this new local opportunity. "We are very excited about Jade Apparel's decision to locate operations in Edgecombe County," said Leonard Wiggins, chairman of the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners. "The creation of 250 new jobs is wonderful news for us."

State Rep. Joe Tolson (D-Edgecombe) said, "I am really pleased to see this process come to a positive conclusion. It is good to see this number of jobs in our area that will help put people back to work. I hope this is the beginning of many such announcements over the next few months."

"The Carolinas Gateway Partnership is please to have assisted Jade Apparel in its expansion and relocation," said Chairman Frank Harrison. "We also thank the NC Department of Commerce for their assistance on this project. With our available labor and positive business climate, this confirms the advantages of a Twin County location for companies doing business throughout the Southeast. Jade Apparel will be providing jobs to the area's workers that is so important in these tough economic times."